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Title: Regarding closure of several units of Central Public Sector Undertakings.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, last week, we raised the question of closure of sick fertiliser units. It is not only that the fertiliser units are being closed but hundreds of industrial units under the Government of India belonging to Central public sector undertakings are also being closed.

Government has finally decided to close down the premier engineering unit like the Kulti Steel Plant. About 2400 workers will be rendered surplus and are being forced to take VRS.

The BOGL is the only industry in our country producing flint buttons. This Government has not decided to restart the production at BOGL.

Both the units of the Cycle Corporation of India at Kalyani as well as near Asansol are being closed down.

Pharmaceutical units like the IDPL, SSPL and Bengal Immunities are also being closed down. The Government has not taken any step to restart production and revive these three units.

As far as sick jute manufacturing units are concerned, the Government has decided not to revive the units of NJMC. Rather it has decided to close down these sick units. Bard, jute and export are very important units for jute diversification. Recently, the Government have issued orders to close it down and the workers have been asked to take VRS within a month. Otherwise, they will all be terminated.

There are two printing presses of the Government of India. One printing press is at Shimla and another one is at Gangtok. There is a form stores in Kolkata. The Government have decided to close down these units and to modernise them, thereby rendering a large number of employees surplus. They are forced to take VRS. The Government is planning to place orders to outside private printing presses although the Government of India has very good printing presses. But these presses are being closed down.

Hundreds of fertiliser units and engineering units are being closed down. You know that the Hindustan Cables does not come under the Ministry of Disinvestment. Now, the Ministry of Disinvestment is recommending that some of these units should be closed down. Recently, the Disinvestment Ministry has recommended to close down the Hindustan Cables also.

A large number of units are being closed down. Thousands of workers are becoming surplus and are being forced to take VRS. I demand a statement from the hon. Minister. The Minister for Parliametnary Affairs is here. He should convey our feelings to the concerned Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee has also given notice on the same issue. He has given two notices. I am now taking up the subject of closure of various industrial units.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (BASIRHAT): Sir, I have given notice on this issueâ€¦...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, you know that we are very much disturbed on this issue. This is a human issue also apart from the country's development. This is a serious matter. The Government should not take it so casually for the sake of this country and the working people of this country. Where will they go? If somebody is given Rs. 2 lakhs, what will he do with that money when there is no proper interest available from the banks? The interest has come down to 5 per cent. The senior citizens are also facing problems. What will they do with just Rs.2 lakhs for the whole future? Persons who are 40 years old are dismissed from service. This is a matter of great concern. Sir, I do not know why they are sitting like sphinxes.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Hannan Mollah and Shri Ajoy Chakraborty have also given notices on the same issue.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA): I join Shri Basu Deb Acharia in raising this issue. The Government should see to it that at least some of these factories are re-opened. Thank you.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : I fully associate with the submissions made by hon. Members Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and Shri Hannan Mollah. The Government of India has taken a decision to dismantle and destruct the public sector units of our country. They have decided to close down Hindustan Cables Limited, Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation of India and other important and leading public sector undertakings. â€¦ (*Interruptions*) They are also going to disinvest NALCO which is the biggest aluminium manufacturing unit within Asia. The Government is taking decisions to close down and dismantle the public sector units one after the other. As a result of this, thousands of workers and employees are thrown out of their jobs.

I urge, Mr. Speaker, Sir, to use your good offices so that the Government of India is prevented from taking these injurious decisions which are going against the interest of the country.